Tafsir Ibn Kathir

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لاَ رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

This is the Book; in it is guidance sure, without doubt, to those who fear Allah

Al-`Asr

Revealed in Makkah

How `Amr bin Al-`As was aware of the Qur'an's Miracle due to this Surah

They have mentioned that Amr bin Al-`As went to visit Musaylimah Al-Kadhdhab after the Messenger of Allah was commissioned (as a Prophet) and before `Amr had accepted Islam. Upon his arrival, Musaylimah said to him, "What has been revealed to your friend (Muhammad) during this time''

Amr said, "A short and concise Surah has been revealed to him.''

Musaylimah then said, "What is it''

Amr replied;

وَالْعَصْرِ

إِنَّ الإِنسَـنَ لَفِى خُسْرٍ

إِلاَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ وَعَمِلُواْ الصَّـلِحَـتِ وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالصَّبْرِ

> By Al-`Asr.
>
> Verily, man is in loss.
>
> Except those who believe and do righteous deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience.

So Musaylimah thought for a while. Then he said, "Indeed something similar has also been revealed to me.''

Amr asked him, "What is it''

He replied,

> "O Wabr (a small, furry mammal; hyrax), O Wabr! You are only two ears and a chest, and the rest of you is digging and burrowing.''

Then he said, "What do you think, O `Amr''

So `Amr said to him, "By Allah! Verily, you know that I know you are lying.''

I saw that Abu Bakr Al-Khara'iti mentioned a chain of narration for part of this story, or what was close to its meaning, in volume two of his famous book Masawi' ul-Akhlaq.

The Wabr is a small animal that resembles a cat, and the largest thing on it is its ears and its torso, while the rest of it is ugly. Musaylimah intended by the composition of these nonsensical verses to produce something which would oppose the Qur'an. Yet, it was not even convincing to the idol worshipper of that time.

At-Tabarani recorded from Abdullah bin Hisn Abi Madinah that he said,

> "Whenever two men from the Companions of the Messenger of Allah used to meet, they would not part until one of them had recited Surah **Al-`Asr** in its entirety to the other, and one of them had given the greetings of peace to the other.''

Ash-Shafi`i said,

> "If the people were to ponder on this Surah, it would be sufficient for them.''

Al-`Asr

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَـنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

وَالْعَصْرِ

103:1 By Al-`Asr.

إِنَّ الإِنسَـنَ لَفِى خُسْرٍ

103:2 Verily, man is in loss.

إِلاَّ الَّذِينَ ءامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّـلِحَـتِ وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالصَّبْرِ

103:3 Except those who believe and do righteous deeds, and recommend one another to the truth, and recommend one another to patience.

Allah Says:

وَالْعَصْرِ (١)

إِنَّ الْإِنسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (٢)

By Al-`Asr. , Verily, man is in loss.

> **Al-`Asr** is the time in which the movements of the Children of Adam occur, whether good or evil.

Malik narrated from Zayd bin Aslam that he said, "It is the evening.''

However, the first view is the popular opinion. Thus, Allah swears by this, that man is in خُسْرٍ **(Khusr)**, which means in loss and destruction.

إِلاَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ وَعَمِلُواْ الصَّـلِحَـتِ ...

Except those who believe and do righteous good deeds.

So Allah makes an exception, among the species of man being in loss, for those who believe in their hearts and work righteous deeds with their limbs.

... وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالْحَقِّ ...

And recommend one another to the truth,

This is to perform acts of obedience and avoid the forbidden things.

... وَتَوَاصَوْاْ بِالصَّبْرِ (٣)

And recommend one another to patience.

meaning, with the plots, the evils, and the harms of those who harm people due to their commanding them to do good and forbidding them from evil.

This is the end of the Tafsir of Surah **Al-`Asr**, and all praise and thanks are due to Allah.